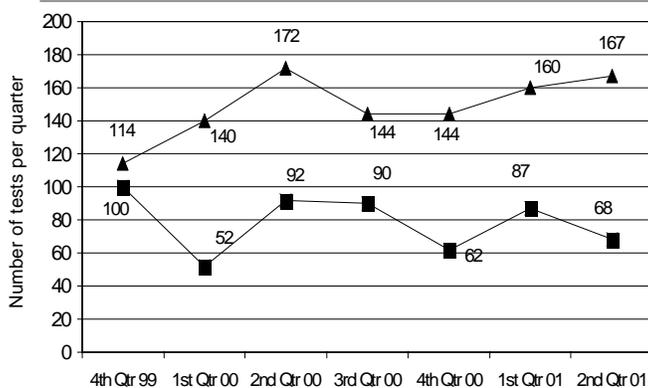


Focus on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections

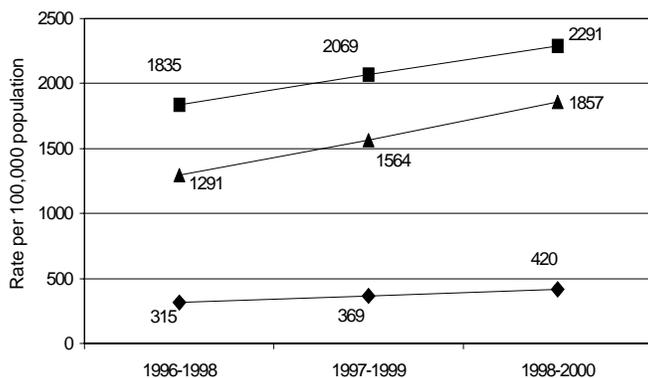
The Community HealthWatch report cards are developed by the Kent County Health Department to present health information that is being monitored by Healthy Kent 2010, a community health committee dedicated to improving our county's health. This report card focuses on HIV -- the virus that causes AIDS -- and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's). The Healthy Kent STI/AIDS Implementation Team is developing a prevention marketing campaign to promote healthy behaviors and HIV/STI testing among 15-24 years olds, the population that is at greatest risk of sexually transmitted infections in Kent County.

HIV Testing by Age Group



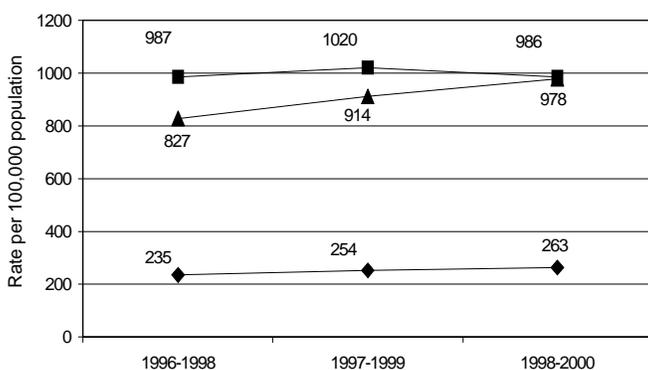
Baseline data recently monitored by the I-Team reveal that in Kent County an average of 78 teens ages 15-19, and an average of 148 young adults ages 20-24, received **free HIV tests** each quarter between the beginning of October 1999 and the end of June 2001.

Chlamydia: New Case Rate



During the last five years the rate of **new cases of chlamydia** has increased consistently among teens and young adults in Kent County. The rate of **new cases of gonorrhea** has stabilized among teens but has increased slightly among young adults. The rates of both chlamydia and gonorrhea among teens and young adults are significantly higher in Kent County than in Michigan as a whole. Multiple factors (i.e. increased testing, surveillance, and reporting) may contribute to higher rates locally.

Gonorrhea: New Case Rate



The STI/AIDS I-Team is working to increase testing by helping young people become aware of their potential for exposure to STI's and of the availability of local prevention services. Additional discussion of STI's in Kent County can be found in the Health Department's report on sexually transmitted diseases, available at the web site below.